

To every problem and challenge he has faced, he has brought keen insight and attention to detail that has enabled thoughtful solutions. He demonstrated extraordinary environmental stewardship in successfully shepherding the transfer of land on the western end of Vieques within the timeframes specified by law. He has successfully engaged in the extremely complicated task of negotiations and agreements, allowing the Department to convey base closure property for redevelopment by local communities.

Mr. Holaday has left a remarkable legacy. The hallmark of his service, throughout his career, has been improved living and working conditions for the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who serve our country so bravely, day after day. He has been steadfast in his service to this great nation and his devotion to those with whom he has served. His superb performance has won him countless awards, including the Distinguished Civilian Service Award in 2001. His leadership will be sorely missed. I for one am extremely grateful that he chose to enter public service.

I wish to recognize and thank him for his honorable service and would like to join with his many friends and colleagues, both within the executive branch and here in Congress, in wishing him fair winds and following seas as he and his wife, Mary Margaret, and son, Duncan, continue forward in what most assuredly will remain a life of service to this great Nation.

IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH HIRD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to one of the most generous and giving community members I have had the pleasure of knowing. In life, Elizabeth Hird was beloved by all of those whose lives she touched—a true community treasure.

An artist, community leader and active conservationist, Elizabeth was a pioneer in the local efforts for environmental preservation and education—dedicating her time and energies to ensure that our natural resources would be protected for future generations to enjoy. A founding member, and later, director and president of the Killingworth Land Conservation Trust, Elizabeth worked hard to make the public aware of all nature could teach them. She was instrumental in the creation of the Platt Nature Center for environmental education which offers programs throughout the summer to young children. Through these programs, children are able to participate in a variety of activities where they learn to identify the wild flowers and wild life of the area. At part of the last days activities, children were invited to Outer Island, one of the Thimble Islands off the Connecticut coastline, where Elizabeth and her late husband, Basil Rauch, owned a home. Elizabeth hosted the event and children were encouraged to explore the island and the many creatures which call the island home. A unique experience for so many, children of all ages looked forward to this special opportunity.

In 1995, in honor of her husband, Elizabeth donated Outer Island to the United States Fish

and Wildlife Service to become an environmental research and education center and part of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. Today, students of all ages, from elementary to graduate school, have access to the island and the endless lessons it provides. It was just over one year ago that I joined Elizabeth to announce the establishment of the Outer Island Endowment Fund—a renewed commitment to the preservation of Outer Island, its diverse wildlife, and educational opportunities for our community's young people. In speaking to Elizabeth that day, I knew that her dream for Outer Island had been realized and I was proud to join in the celebration of her vision.

I am honored to stand today in memory of Elizabeth Hird and express my deepest thanks and appreciation for all that she has given to our community. Elizabeth was truly a unique individual who has left an indelible mark on our community. Hers is a legacy which will continue to inspire many for generations to come.

IN HONOR OF THE SOCIETY OF HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers as it hosted the 15th Annual Eastern Technical and Career Conference (ETCC), which was held November 1–3, 2002, at the Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Despite the many advancements made by Hispanics in the fields of engineering and science, we must continue to ensure equality in the work force for all Americans. The ETCC has made this its focus and, since 1987, has been promoting academic excellence, professional growth, technical opportunities, and the development of ties and connections among Hispanic professionals. These valuable networking opportunities for students and professionals are necessary to promote and provide for a more just work environment.

The second largest Hispanic student engineering conference in the nation, the ETCC attracts over 50 universities along the East Coast. This year, the ETCC is expecting 1,200 Latino college students majoring in math, science, and engineering, and 300 professionals and corporate representatives from Fortune 500 companies to attend.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 15th Annual Eastern Technical and Career Conference hosted by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. New Jersey is fortunate to have organizations that provide opportunities for students and professionals to explore what being Hispanic and being a professional can mean. My best wishes for a successful conference.

HONORING SPECIAL AGENT LOUIS PAUL RUSSO

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished FBI agent from the Bureau's Detroit Division on the occasion of his retirement. On June 28, 1971 Louis Paul Russo entered on duty as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. On October 1, 1971 SA Russo reported to the Detroit Division. Director J. Edgar Hoover transferred SAA Russo from Detroit, to the Lansing Resident Agency beginning January 11, 1972. On December 21, 1972 SA Russo was transferred to the Cincinnati Division. SA Russo served in Cincinnati for over 16 years before he was reassigned to Detroit arriving on October 2, 1989.

SA Russo successfully worked a broad spectrum of cases including, Bank Robberies, Civil Rights, Auto Theft, Labor Violations, Fugitives, Counter Intelligence, and Organized Crime. Agent Russo spent his entire career as what is commonly called a "street agent." Street agents are the agents that solve the cases, make our neighborhoods safe, and protect these United States from our enemies; foreign and domestic, all at a great personal sacrifice to themselves and their families.

I am aware from Agent Russo's co-workers that right up to his last days "on the rolls", Special Agent Russo came to work early, poured over his files, "hit the streets" and got the job done. After September 11, 2001 SA Russo, while attending to his other cases, enthusiastically reengineered himself to transition with the Bureau in their new focus on the investigation of Terrorism, all with more energy and sense of purpose than most agents 30 years younger than he.

I have heard him affectionately referred to as a "one man squad". Agent Russo was always going above and beyond. I am aware of an instance where Agents on the organized crime squad in Detroit where assigned to fan out across the Motor City looking for evidence of construction equipment thefts that had allegedly occurred many years earlier; all to verify the credibility of a witness. They were only looking for evidence that such thefts had been reported; so many years had gone by, any leads were certain to be cold. The agents one by one returned at the end of the day with the various proofs that these pieces of equipment had in fact been reported stolen. Agent Russo also came back to the office with police reports to verify the long ago reported thefts and with a backhoe and other heavy equipment in tow, he had not only verified the thefts, he had recovered the stolen property. SA Russo has received letters of commendation from every Director that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has ever had. SA Russo consistently received top job performance reviews and he has garnered many letters of appreciation from Assistant United States Attorneys. Most importantly, SA Russo has earned and kept the respect of every agent he has ever served with. He has diligently protected the citizens of the great State of Michigan and the citizens of this great nation with enthusiasm, dedication and pride.